

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are presently active in this case. In the present Request for Reconsideration, none of the claims are amended.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Antilla et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,394) in view of *Saunders et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0193209, hereinafter "*Saunders*"). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Antilla* in view of *Saunders*, in further view of *Jungck* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0021863). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Antilla* in view of *Saunders*, in further view of *Taguchi et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,253, herein "*Taguchi*"). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Antilla* in view of *Saunders*, in further view of *Tanaka et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0025275, herein "*Tanaka*").

In response to the rejections of Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests reconsideration thereof, as next discussed.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Saunders*, a reference relied upon by the outstanding Office Action to form all the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections, is not prior art against applicant's invention, as next discussed.

The reference *Saunders* is a U.S. Patent Publication filed on August 5, 2004, that is based on a continuation application with the Serial No. 10/682,095, that was filed on October 8, 2003. Neither of these references qualify as prior art since applicant has perfected claim to priority of the Japanese reference JP2000-388810, with a filing date of

December 21, 2000.

In addition, the reference *Saunders* and the reference with the Serial No. 10/682,095 are merely *continuation-in-part* applications of the applications with the Serial Nos. 09/143,907 and 09/698,507. Although both of these applications were filed before applicant's priority date, these references fail to support paragraph [0017] on pages 1-2 of *Saunders*. Clearly, both applications fail to teach any feature regarding "memory ... for storing progress of current game playing, so that if a game is suspended during operation, the game may be resumed at a point of suspension by re-accessing the memory of the content providing apparatus," as required by applicant's independent claims.

The application with the Serial No. 09/143,907 is directed to a distributed gaming system. (09/143,907, Abstract). A random number generator provides a series of pseudo-random numbers and a rules library stores indexed rules for one or more games. (Id.) But this reference fails to teach anything regarding storing the progress of a current game for resuming a game at a point of suspension, as required by applicant's Claim 1.

The same applies to the application with the Serial No. 09/698,507. This application is directed to the generation of time-stamped keys, so as to provide secure access to online gambling games for users that remotely access the game from a network (09/698,507, Abstract). Also, this reference fails to teach anything regarding storing the progress of a current game for resuming a game at a point of suspension, as required by Applicant's Claim 1.


Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of *Saunders* from consideration, and believes that the rejections of each of Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based, *inter alia*, on *Saunders* is overcome.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's representative at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this Request for Reconsideration, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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